



FRANKLIN ROAD

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NEWSLETTER

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SUCCESS?



HOW WOULD YOU DEFINE SUCCESS? SOME WOULD SAY THAT SUCCESS IS INDICATED BY ONE'S FAME, FORTUNE OR FEATS. WE'VE RECENTLY SEEN SOME OLYMPIC ATHLETICS DEMONSTRATE SUCCESS IN THEIR VARIOUS SPORTS. I GUESS THEY'RE THE BEST IN THE WORLD . . . AT LEAST FOR NOW.

HOWEVER, FROM A SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVE WE'D DEFINE SUCCESS DIFFERENTLY. ONE'S FAITH IS A GOOD MEASURE OF SPIRITUAL SUCCESS. FOR INSTANCE, WE THINK OF NOAH, ABRAHAM, AND MOSES AS GREAT MEN OF FAITH. CERTAINLY, DAVID'S VICTORY OVER GOLIATH DEMONSTRATES AN AMAZING FEAT OF FAITH.

HEBREWS 11 PROVIDES US WITH THE FAMILIAR "HALL OF FAITH." THERE THE PHRASE "BY FAITH" APPEARS NINETEEN TIMES. IN ADDITION TO ABRAHAM AND MOSES, OTHERS LIKE ABEL, ENOCH, SARAH, ISAAC AND RAHAB ARE HERALDED THERE. BUT DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S AT THE END OF THAT CHAPTER? THERE WE LEARN OF THOSE WHO "WERE TORTURED, NOT ACCEPTING THEIR RELEASE, SO THAT THEY MIGHT OBTAIN A BETTER RESURRECTION." (V. 35) AND WE'RE INFORMED OF THE FATE OF OTHERS WHO "EXPERIENCED MOCKING AND SCOURGINGS, YES, ALSO CHAINS AND IMPRISONMENT." (V. 36) WE READ THAT SOME WERE STONED, SAWN IN TWO, AFFLICTED AND ILL-TREATED, AND WANDERED IN MOUNTAINS, CAVES AND DESERTS. (VS. 37-38) A SUMMARY OF THESE IS THIS: THEY "GAINED APPROVAL THROUGH THEIR FAITH." (V. 39) YOU SEE, AN APPROVED FAITH IS NOT SIMPLY ONE THAT CONQUERS EVERY EVIL AND OVERCOMES EVERY OBSTACLE. IN FACT, THESE WITH APPROVED FAITH "DID NOT RECEIVE WHAT WAS PROMISED." (V. 39) THEY DIDN'T GET ALL OF THAT FOR WHICH THEY WERE LOOKING. THE REALITY IS THAT THEY FINISHED WELL, AND THAT'S A SUCCESSFUL FAITH.

ARE WE SUCCESSFUL? HABAKKUK 2:4 SAYS THE RIGHTEOUS WILL LIVE BY FAITH, A THOUGHT REPEATED BY PAUL IN ROMANS 1:17. FURTHERMORE, ROMANS 5:1-2 REMINDS US THAT "HAVING BEEN JUSTIFIED BY FAITH, WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THROUGH WHOM ALSO WE HAVE OBTAINED OUR INTRODUCTION BY FAITH INTO THIS GRACE IN WHICH WE STAND; AND WE EXULT IN HOPE OF THE GLORY OF GOD." BY FAITH WE HAVE PEACE, GRACE AND HOPE. THESE ARE THE TRUE SIGNS OF SUCCESS.

MAY GOD HELP US TO SUCCESSFULLY WALK BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT. (II CORINTHIANS 5:7).

LOOKING UP!

PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE